Lovely Strange Dark

ULTRABAROQUE DEPROGRAMMER

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CHAPTER 14

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LAX, CALIFORNIA
SORACHAI HAS THOSE SECURITY CAMERAS SET UP, RIGHT? —— YEAH, AT THE TOKYO WORKSHOP WHERE WE SENT OUR GUYS.
YOU ONLY SENT THREE GUYS.
WE SENT THREE GUYS TO CAPTURE ONE NAMELESS DEPROGRAMMER. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ——
PULL UP ALL THE VIDEO. I WANT TO KNOW HOW IT TURNED OUT

Dammit, Calavera! You took over my body!
CHAPTER 14 MULTIPLE PSY MATRIX 3
HAA!
WAIT, COULD WE STAY SWITCHED LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!?
PUNY !?
P-
Just so we can get through this. It's not like I want to be in this puny body.

GHG!
SLAM
CRASH
!
twitch

WHAM
Tap
Tap
DRASH
"Pshh"

I
I THINK YOUR SHOULDER AND HIP JOINTS ARE BUSTED.
tap
HAVE THAT DOCTOR CHIKA OR WHATEVER DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.

THE BRAN??
RICE BRAN AND BRINE TO MAKE PICKLES
HEY...
Tap
CALAVERA, ARE YOU GOING TO STIR THE BRAN?
Tap
OH, RIGHT
Tolte
!
See you later, Deprogrammer

DEPRO-GRAM-MER!
GASP
GASP
YOU'RE LATE! WE WERE WORRIED. CHIKA'S GOT HER CAR RIGHT OVER THERE —
WAIT, WHAT'S WRONG!?
THUD
DAMN HIM — HE COULD AT LEAST SAY THANK YOU...
URK ?
OW!
AND SERIOUSLY, PICKLES...?
THAT BASTARD...
GASP
MY HIP IS PRACTICALLY SCREAMING IN PAIN..
AND MY SHOULDER... I THINK IT'S BROKEN!!
GASP

WEREN'T YOU JUST GOING TO BE ALL COOL AND HYPNOTIZE THEM!?
WHAT, DID YOU DO A SPLIT OR SOMETHING!?
THE GUY RIPPING THROUGH THEM IN THE VIDEO IS TAKAZAWA HIDETO?
YEAH. YOUR POINT?
HUH?
WE HAVE TO CAPTURE TAKAZAWA HIDETO BEFORE HE FULLY REGAINS HIS ABILITIES
THE REMOTE CONTROL WAS HARD ON THEM, HM?
THIS GUY IS THE SECOND TAKAZAWA HIDETO. HIS REAL NAME'S UNKNOWN.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TRUE IT IS, BUT THEY SAY HIS SKILLS AS A DEPROGRAMMER ——
BUT EVERYONE IN OUR LINE OF BUSINESS KNOWS THAT NAME.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FOUNDER.

SURPASS EVEN THE FOUNDER'S.
Roar
YOU PROBABLY JUST PULLED A MUSCLE. WE'LL ICE IT ONCE WE GET TO MY PLACE
THANKS.
AM 4:21

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR PLACE, CHIKA
A LADY DOCTOR LIVING THE SINGLE LIFE.
HOW MUCH LONGER?
IT'S LIKE 10-15 MINUTES PAST SHIBUYA.
HM?
YEAH, SORACHAI
GIMMIE A BREAK.
HERE WE STINK SO BAD YOU WOULDN'T LET US SIT NEXT TO YOU
I'VE GOTTA THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME.
YOU'VE REALLY GOT SOME GUTS, GOING UP AGAINST THAT HULK.

TRUTH IS, I ACTUALLY LEARNED HOW TO FIGHT SOME
BACK WHEN NOBIRU AND I TOOK OVER THE WORKSHOP, HE SAID THAT LIVING THERE WOULD TAKE BRAINS AND BRAWN
WITH TWO KIDS CLAIMING THE PLACE, THERE'D BE A NEVER-ENDING STREAM OF BIGGER SQUATTERS COMING TO TAKE IT
HUH? FROM WHO?
UGLY RAINBOW

and they protect the peace
The folks in that squatter group come from all walks of life

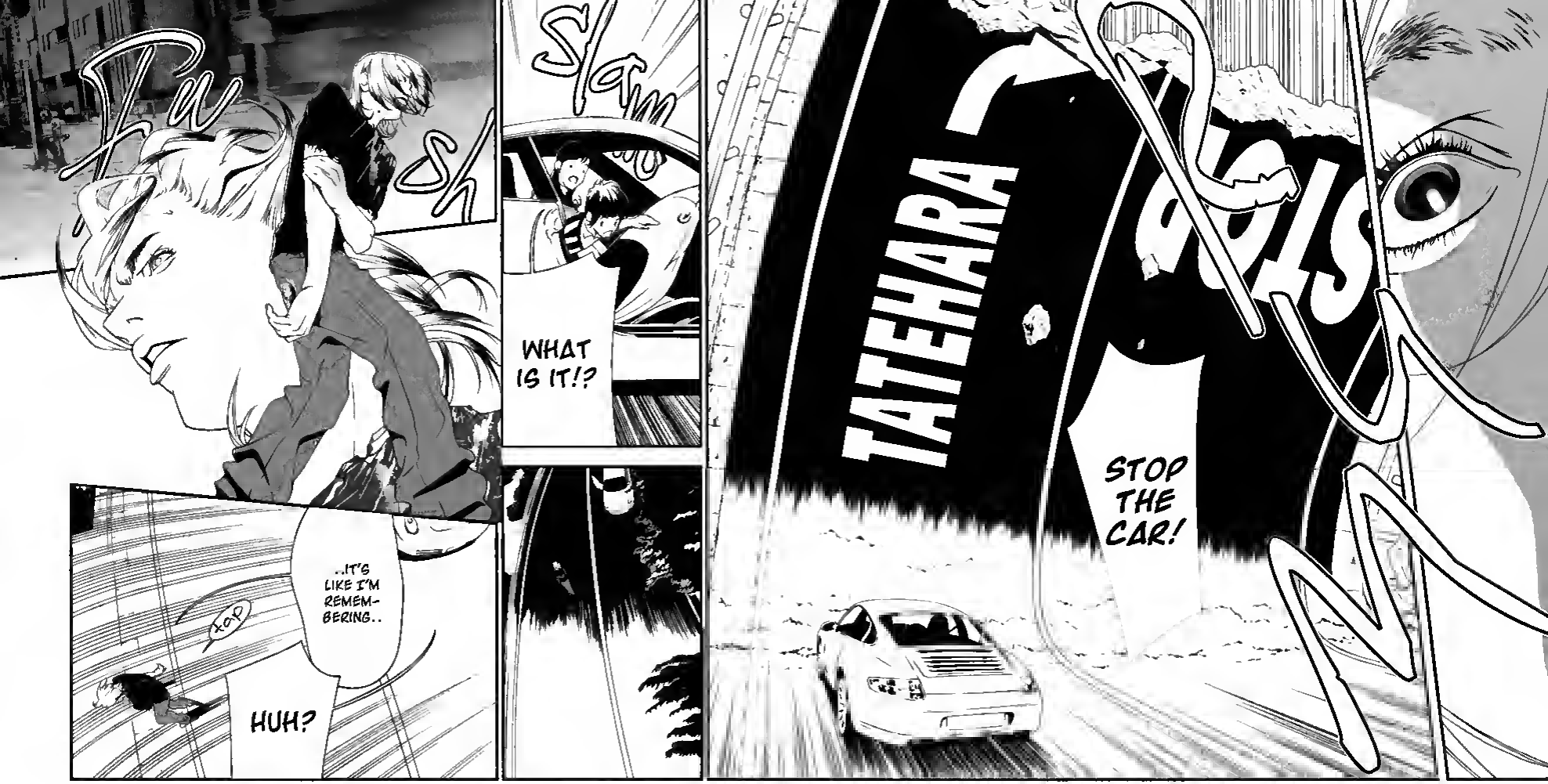
living in the workshop all alone.
They worry about Nabiru and me

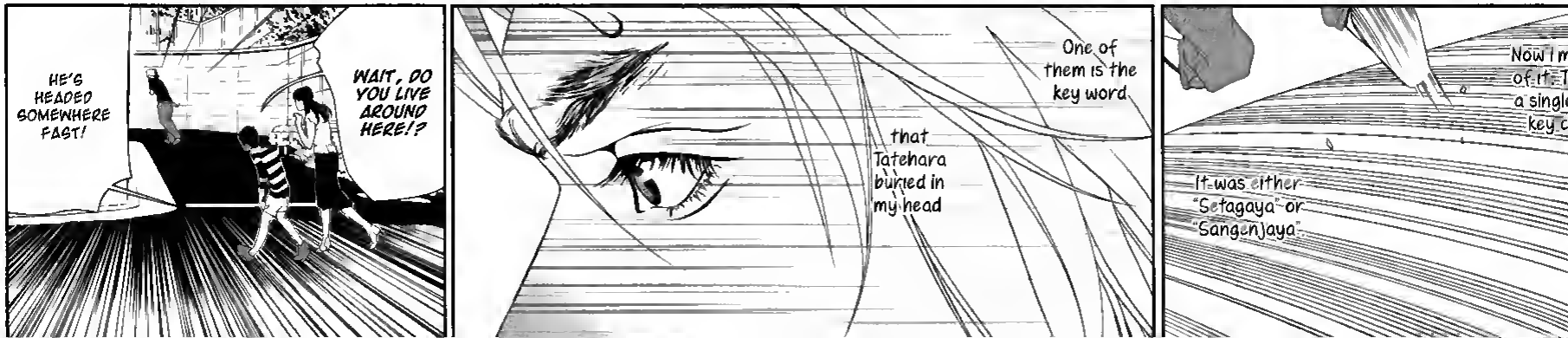
ALL BY HIMSELF?
HUH...
AND THOSE THREE GIANTS WERE OVER 6'5", EASY
UGLY RAINBOW...
HE BEAT 'EM LIKE IT WAS NOTHING

THE UNREST IS STARTING TO SPILL OVER TO OTHER SQUATTER GROUPS.
NOW WE'VE GOT THOSE GUYS WHO PRACTICALLY WORSHIP NOBIRU, TOO.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT NOBIRU'S FAULT.
THERE'S BEEN MORE AND MORE TROUBLE SINCE NOBIRU CAME HERE
GOTTA BE WITH SORACHAI OR NOBIRU.
JUST WHO WAS HE ——?
HIS VOICE JUST UNCANNY.

Setanaya
Tatehara
flicker

立原
立原
立原
TATEHARA
All the signs now say Tatehara
RUMM
Tatehara
Tatehara
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT THE——


Fu
Sh
Slam
WHAT IS IT!?
..IT'S LIKE I'M REMEM-BERING..
tap
HUH?
TATEHARA
STOP THE CAR!


HE'S HEADED SOMEWHERE FAST!
WAIT, DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE!?
One of them is the key word
that Tatehara buried in my head
Now I'm sure of it. This is a single-use key chip.
It was either "Setagaya" or "Sangenjaya".

He was always well-dressed and composed.
Tatehara was a senior depro-grammer.
His fighter gave off the exact opposite impression.
It was done so I could eventually find my way to Tatehara if anything happened to me.
Did I ask him to bury the key, or was it Tatehara's call? Either way——
IT LOOKS LIKE DAVID JONES
BECAME UNSTABLE AND JUMPED TO HIS DEATH.
DALLAS, TEXAS

DAVID JONES CREATED "REAL LIFE", ONE OF THE BIG TWO PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES.
HIS SKILLS AS A WASHER WERE WORLD-CLASS.
HE WAS ALSO RICH AND WELL-LIKED.
YEAH, HE WASN'T THE TYPE TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE.
SO HE WAS MANIPULATED ?

W-WE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU... WHOSE PLACE IS THIS?
"TATSU-HARA"?
IT'S READ "TATEHARA".
TATE
HARA